

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
AUBURN DIVISION**

JAMES NICHOLS	)	Case No. <u>5 : 11 - CV - 209</u>
	)	( GLS / DEP )
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	<b>COMPLAINT</b>
	)	
PENTAGROUP FINANCIAL, LLC	)	<b>Jury Trial Demanded</b>
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

**NATURE OF ACTION**

1. This is an action brought under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*, and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (“TCPA”), 47 U.S.C. § 227.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. This Court has jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3), 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

3. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b), where the acts and transactions giving rise to Plaintiff’s action occurred in this State and this district, where Plaintiff resides in this State and this district, and where Defendant transacts business in this State and this district.

**PARTIES**

4. Plaintiff, James Nichols (“Plaintiff”), is a natural person who at all relevant times resided in the State of New York, County of Onondaga, and City of Syracuse.

5. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

6. Defendant, Pentagroup Financial, LLC (“Defendant”) is an entity who at all relevant times was engaged, by use of the mails and telephone, in the business of attempting to collect a “debt” from Plaintiff, as defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(5).

7. Defendant is a “debt collector” as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

8. Plaintiff is a natural person obligated, or allegedly obligated, to pay a debt owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.

9. Plaintiff's obligation, or alleged obligation, owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendant, arises from a transaction in which the money, property, insurance, or services that are the subject of the transaction were incurred primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

10. Defendant uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, and/or regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due another.

11. Within one (1) year preceding the date of this Complaint, Defendant made and/or placed a telephone call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number, in effort to collect from Plaintiff an obligation, or alleged obligation, owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.

12. Within one (1) year preceding the date of this Complaint, Defendant willfully and knowingly utilized an automatic telephone dialing system to make and/or place a telephone call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number, in effort to collect from

Plaintiff an obligation, or alleged obligation, owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendant.

13. Defendant, via its agent and/or employee “Annette Russo,” placed a call to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone on September 20, 2010 @ 8:27 A.M. and September 27, 2010 @ 9:58 A.M., and in each instance, left a voicemail message in which Defendant failed to disclose its true corporate or business name to Plaintiff and further failed to notify Plaintiff that the communication was from a debt collector. (15 U.S.C. §§ 1692d(6), 1692e(11)).

14. Defendant, via its agent and/or employee “Annette Russo,” placed a call to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone on September 29, 2010 @ 6:47 P.M., and at such time, left a voicemail message in which Defendant failed to notify Plaintiff that the communication was from a debt collector. (15 U.S.C. § 1692e(11)).

15. Defendant placed non-emergency calls to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone on September 20, 2010 @ 8:27 A.M., September 27, 2010 @ 9:58 A.M. and September 29, 2010 @ 6:47 P.M., without the prior express consent of Plaintiff, using an automatic telephone dialing system. (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(1)(A)(iii)).

### **COUNT I**

16. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above.

17. Defendant violated the FDCPA as detailed above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a) Adjudging that Defendant violated the FDCPA;
- b) Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k, in the amount of \$1,000.00;

- c) Awarding Plaintiff actual damages, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k;
- d) Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action;
- e) Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law;
- f) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

## COUNT II

18. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above.

19. Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) by willfully and knowingly utilizing an automatic telephone dialing system to make and/or place a telephone call to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a) Adjudging that Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii);
- b) Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B), in the amount of \$500.00 per violation;
- c) Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C), in the amount of \$1,500.00 per violation;
- d) Awarding Plaintiff actual damages, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);
- e) Awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action;
- f) Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law.

**TRIAL BY JURY**

20. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby demands a trial by jury.

This 23rd day of February, 2011.

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

*James Nichols*

Respectfully submitted,

s/Dennis R. Kurz

Dennis R. Kurz

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